

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:WSSHEPARD/FDR

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,CZ,CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS DISCUSSION WITH CZECH AMBASSADOR

1. CZECH AMBASSADOR SPACIL CALLED ON DEPUTY ASST SECY
ARMITAGE A.M. JULY 23 TO OBTAIN BRIEFING ON CYPRUS SITUATION.
ARMITAGE, REFERRING TO SECRETARY'S JULY 22 PRESS CONFERENCE,
SPOKE OF TWO MAIN ELEMENTS IN SITUATION, CEASEFIRE AND UK
CALL FOR GENEVA MEETING OF GUARANTORS. ON CEASEFIRE, WE
ARE MAKING INTENSIVE EFFORTS WITH ALL CON-
CERNED TO GET CEASEFIRE TO HOLD. IT IS HARD FOR POLITICAL
PROGRESS TO TAKE ROOT UNTIL THE FIGHTING DIMINISHES. LATEST
REPORTS FROM CYPRUS GAVE SOME CAUSE FOR CONCERN ABOUT THE
STABILITY OF THE CEASEFIRE, BUT NO REASON FOR PANIC.

THERE IS STILL OFFICIAL GREEK AND TURKISH ADHERENCE TO THE
CEASEFIRE. ARMITAGE THEN GENERALLY DESCRIBED MILITARY
SITUATION ON CYPRUS AS IT THEN STOOD, EMPHASIZING US EFFORTS

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TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING.

2. ON GENEVA MEETING, ARMITAGE SAID WE WERE VERY INTERESTED IN THIS, BUT EXPECTED THAT SOME DELAY WOULD BE LIKELY AS NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD TO ORGANIZE ITSELF AND FORMULATE ITS POSITIONS. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CHANGES ON CYPRUS ITSELF. WE ARE DEALING WITH CLERIDES, WHO CALLS HIMSELF "ACTING PRESIDENT", AND WHO APPEARS TO BE ORDERING HIS PRIORITIES IN AN EFFORT TO TRY TO MAKE THE CEASEFIRE STICK.' WE ARE EVACUATING OUR DEPENDENTS AND TOURISTS. WE WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIETS REGARDING EVACUATION OF THEIR

PEOPLE BUT THEY MANAGED BY THEMSELVES. WE HAVE KEPT IN CLOSE CONTACT AND THERE HAS BEEN NO SENSE OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE US AND USSR.

3. AS TO WHAT LIES AHEAD, ARMITAGE SAID THE GENEVA TALKS SHOULD BE STARTED SO THAT MOVEMENT CAN PROCEED TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT ALONG CONSTITUTIONAL LINES, WITH STABILITY FOR THE ISLAND'S FUTURE, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES ON THE ISLAND, PRIORITY TOPICS FOR GENEVA. IN RESPONSE TO SPACIL'S QUESTIONS REGARDING PARTITION AND THE FUTURE OF MAKARIOS, ARMITAGE REFERRED HIM TO SECRETARY'S JULY 22 STATEMENT. WE DO NOT WANT TO PREJUDGE THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS, AND BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRESUMPTUOUS OF US TO TAKE POSITIONS ON SUCH MATTERS WHEN THE NEGOTIATING PARTIES HAVEN'T EVEN MET YET. SPACIL NOTED DIFFERENCE IN THIS REGARD IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE, WHICH WAS ONE OF FIRM SUPPORT FOR RETURN OF MAKARIOS. INGERSOLL

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